

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 254642

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PLOS, EFIS, PFOR, EC

SUBJECT:EXPORT OF ECUADORIAN TUNA TO U.S.

REF: QUITO 7564

1. ALTHOUGH PARIS IATTC MEETING CONCLUDED WITH NO AGREEMENT (GOE WAS REPRESENTED BY OBSERVER FROM PARIS EMBASSY), IT IS INDEED POSSIBLE AS NOTED REFTEL THAT IF AGREEMENT IS REACHED AT ADDITIONAL MEETING TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH QUOTA COULD BE REDUCED.

2. THE CATCH OF ALL COUNTRIES INCLUDING NON-MEMBERS OF IATTC IS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING WHEN SEASON SHOULD BE CLOSED SO AS NOT TO EXCEED TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH. IATTC DOES NOT ALLOCATE CATCH TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES. ONE SUCH SPECIAL ALLOCATION IS THAT EACH COUNTRY IS ALLOWED 6,000 TONS OF YELLOWFIN TUNA DURING THE CLOSED SEASON FOR ITS VESSELS UNDER 400 TONS CARRYING
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CAPACITY. THUS, IF ECUADOR WERE IATTC MEMBER IT WOULD BE

PERMITTED TO FISH THIS AMOUNT DURING THE CLOSED SEASON,
SINCE ALL GOE VESSELS ARE SMALLER THAN 400 TONS.
ECUADOR'S CATCH FOR 1975 AS OF OCTOBER 6 WAS 7,300 TONS OF

YELLOWFIN, BUT IT IS NOT KNOWN HOW MUCH OF THIS WAS TAKEN
DURING OPEN SEASON SO WE DO NOT KNOW AT THIS TIME IF
ECUADOR'S CLOSED SEASON CATCH WILL EXCEED 6000 TONS. AT
THE PRESENT TIME, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW ECUADOR
COULD BE REGARDED AS BEING IN VIOLATION OF THE RECOMMEN-
DATIONS OF THE COMMISSION UNLESS ITS CLOSED SEASON CATCH
EXCEEDED 6000 TONS.

3. TUNA CONVENTIONS ACT, U.S. IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION
FOR IATTC, DOES PROVIDE FOR AN EMBARGO ON REGULATED
SPECIES (YELLOWFIN TUNA) AGAINST COUNTRIES WHOSE VESSELS
ARE FISHING IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD TEND TO DIMINISH THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS OF IATTC,
WHETHER OR NOT SUCH COUNTRIES ARE MEMBERS OF IATTC. THE
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE IS AUTHORIZED TO PROMULGATE EMBARGO
REGULATIONS IF THE APPROPRIATE FINDING IS MADE REGARDING
FOREIGN FISHING. IF SUCH A FINDING WERE TO BE MADE, ALL
REPEAT ALL YELLOWFIN FROM THAT COUNTRY WOULD BE PROHIBITED
FROM ENTERING U.S. EMBARGO ACTION PURSUANT TO THIS PRO-
VISION OF TUNA CONVENTIONS ACT HAS RECENTLY BEEN TAKEN
AGAINST SPAIN.

4. DEPT AGREES THAT EMBARGO AGAINST GOE AT THIS TIME
WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, AND DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY
COMMERCE DEPT INITIATIVE ALONG THESE LINES. KISSINGER

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